

Regulations:

The Following is a List of Prohibited or Otherwise Regulated Activities Within the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, Which Includes Stetson Bank

Anchoring and Mooring

The following activities are prohibited:

- Anchoring any vessel within the sanctuary
- Mooring a vessel over 100 feet in registered length on a sanctuary mooring buoy

Discharges

Sanctuary regulations prohibit discharging or depositing any material or other matter with a few exceptions, including:

- Fish, fish parts, chumming materials or bait used in or resulting from fishing with conventional hook and line gear in the sanctuary
- Biodegradable effluents incidental to vessel use and generated by an approved marine sanitation device
- Water generated by routine vessel operations (e.g., cooling water, deck wash down, and graywater) excluding oily wastes from bilge pumping
- Engine exhaust

Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles

Regulations prohibit taking any marine mammal or turtle within the sanctuary.

Take or taking includes, but is not limited to: to harass (e.g. to touch, ride, or shine bright lights into an animal's eyes), harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect or injure, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. This includes, but is not limited to, the collection of any dead or injured marine mammal, sea turtle or seabird, or any part thereof, no matter how temporarily; to operate a vessel or aircraft or to do any other act that results in the disturbance or molestation of any marine mammal, sea turtle or seabird.

The Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, located roughly 115 miles south of the Texas/Louisiana coast, harbors the northernmost coral reefs in the continental United States and protects Stetson Bank and the East and West Flower Garden Banks.



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NOAA's National Ocean Service

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, including Stetson Bank

Injury to or Possession of Sanctuary Resources

The following activities are generally prohibited:

- Injuring or removing, or attempting to injure or remove, any coral or other bottom formation, coralline algae or other plant, marine invertebrate (e.g., *spiny lobster*, *queen conch*, *shell*, *sea urchin*), brine-seep biota or carbonate rock within the sanctuary.
- Possessing within the sanctuary (regardless of where collected, caught, harvested or removed), any carbonate rock, coral or other bottom formation, coralline algae or other plant, or fish (except for fish caught by use of conventional hook and line gear).
- Drilling into, dredging or otherwise altering the seabed of the sanctuary; or constructing, placing or abandoning any structure, material or other matter on the seabed of the sanctuary.

Injure means to change adversely, either in the short or long term, a chemical, biological or physical attribute of, or the viability of. This includes, but is not limited to, to cause the loss of or destroy.

Fishing and Related Activities

The following activities are generally prohibited:

- Injuring, catching, harvesting, collecting or **feeding**, or attempting to injure, catch, harvest, collect or feed, **any** fish within the sanctuary by use of any gear, device, equipment or means (e.g. *spear guns*, *nets*) except by use of conventional hook and line gear.
- Possessing (except while passing through the sanctuary without interruption) any fishing gear, device, equipment or means except conventional hook and line gear.
- Possessing, or using explosives or releasing electrical charges within the sanctuary.

Conventional hook and line gear means any fishing apparatus operated aboard a vessel and composed of a single line terminated by a combination of sinkers and hooks or lures and spooled upon a reel that may be hand or electrically operated, hand-held or mounted.

For full text of the regulations contact the sanctuary or see: 15 CFR, Subpart L, 922.122(a); 15 CFR, Subpart A, 922.3

Contact Information

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